

Press Release

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Contact: James R. Minichello/703-465-2171

Dept. of Veterans Affairs to Provide Reimbursement for Veterans Seeking National Board Certification®

Benefits will help teachers in public and private schools

(Arlington, Va.) — The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will reimburse eligible veterans up to \$2,000 for National Board Certification fees, for each first time or retake assessment.

National Board Certification is the highest credential in the teaching profession. A voluntary process established by NBPTS, certification is achieved through a rigorous performance-based assessment that measures what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do. It takes between one and three years to achieve National Board Certification.

"This partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and NBPTS exemplifies the continuing national support and commitment to advancing the quality of education for our nation's young people," says NBPTS President Joseph A. Aguerrebere. "A powerful initiative like this will create more opportunities for teachers to obtain National Board Certification, which will lead to a stronger teaching force."

The effective date of the approval is April 1, 2003, so candidates who received National Board Certification scores last November are eligible to apply. The VA will also reimburse fees associated with retake portions of the assessment if candidates do not achieve certification on their first attempt.

To receive this benefit, veterans must be eligible for the VA's Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty, the Veterans Educational Assistance Program, or Dependents' Education Assistance programs. The VA will provide reimbursement once a candidate submits an application for reimbursement along with a copy of his or her score report and a receipt showing the amount paid for the exam.

Teachers who achieve National Board Certification may be eligible to receive additional financial support from their respective states and local school districts.

For additional information, including the application for VA benefits, please visit www.gibill.va.gov or call **1-888-GI-BILL-1**. To become a candidate for National Board Certification, please visit <http://www.nbpts.org/candidates/become.cfm> or call **1-800-22TEACH**.

